

WORKFORCE AT A GLANCE

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In This Issue



2

Economic
Comparison



3

Workforce Notes



4 - 7

Data Trends
(Graphs)



8 - 9

Nonfarm
Employment &
Wages



10 - 11

Unemploy. Rates &
Civilian Labor Force



12

Average Hours &
Earnings



13

UI Claimants &
Labor Market
Q & A's



14 - 15

Glossary,
Data Constraints,
Order Form, &
Web Links

Statewide Overview

Please see page 3 for additional information reflecting the effects of both Hurricanes Katrina and Rita on the business and household surveys in Louisiana.

Seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment for Louisiana was estimated to be 1,759,500 for April 2006. This figure represented a decrease over the month of 4,400 jobs and a decrease over the year of 182,000 employees. The largest net increase over the month was in Professional and Business Services with an increase of 2,100 jobs. Statewide employment figures for seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment can be found on page 2.

Changes from March to April revealed growth in four industry sectors and reductions in seven industry sectors. Natural Resources and Mining increased 600; Construction increased 1,300; Professional and Business Services increased 2,100; and Other Services increased 400. Those industry sectors reporting declines in employment were Manufacturing, 100; Trade, Transportation, and Utilities, 2,800; Information, 200; Financial Activities, 200; Educational and Health Services, 2,700; Leisure and Hospitality, 1,600; and Government, 1,200.

Over the year, seasonally adjusted figures indicated an increase in only one industry sector, Natural Resources and Mining with 2,000 positions. Reductions were found in all the other industry sectors. Employment declined in Construction, 13,300 jobs; Manufacturing, 11,100 jobs; Trade, Transportation, and Utilities, 20,800 jobs; Information, 1,600 jobs; Financial Activities, 4,700 jobs; Professional and Business Services, 22,600 jobs; Educational and Health Services, 46,600 jobs; Leisure and Hospitality, 40,100 jobs; Other Services, 13,000 jobs; and Government, 10,200 jobs.

The April preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for Louisiana remained the same as the March rate of 4.8 percent. The national unemployment rate for April remained the same as the March rate of 4.7 percent. Total unemployment in the state for April was 90,063. The state civilian labor force increased to 1,872,671, with a decrease in total employment to 1,782,608.

Economic Indicators

Seasonally Adjusted	Preliminary APRIL 2006	
Civilian Labor Force	United States	Louisiana
Labor Force	150,811,000	1,872,671
Employed	143,688,000	1,782,608
Unemployed	7,123,000	90,063
Unemployment Rate	4.7	4.8
Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment	APR 2006 United States	APR 2006 Louisiana
Total Nonfarm	135,068,000	1,759,500
Nat. Resources and Mining	669,000	47,400
Construction	7,510,000	107,200
Manufacturing	14,246,000	143,600
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	26,063,000	361,300
Information	3,071,000	28,100
Financial Activities	8,313,000	94,300
Professional and Business Services	17,233,000	168,800
Educational and Health Services	17,656,000	210,100
Leisure and Hospitality	13,006,000	170,100
Other Services	5,397,000	58,500
Government	21,904,000	370,100
Average Hours & Earnings		
	(Not Seasonally Adjusted)	
Natural Resources & Mining	APR 2006 United States	APR 2006 Louisiana
Average Weekly Earnings	\$ 895.58	\$ 960.87
Average Weekly Hours	45.3	44.3
Average Hourly Wages	\$ 19.77	\$ 21.69
Manufacturing		
Average Weekly Earnings	\$ 675.83	\$ 800.26
Average Weekly Hours	40.3	41.4
Average Hourly Wages	\$ 16.77	\$ 19.33
Louisiana Unemployment Insurance Activities		
Claims		APR 2006
Initial New & Renewals		8,642
Continued Weekly Intrastate Only		77,452
Insured Unemployment Rate		2.1
Benefits		
Number of First Payment		3,631
Benefits Paid (000's)		\$ 16,577
Weeks Compensated		90,158
Average Wkly. Benefit Amount		\$ 185.58
Average Duration of Claim (Weeks)		NA
Exhaustions		5,718
United States Consumer Price Index		
		APR 2006
All Urban Consumers		201.5

The civilian labor force and nonfarm **estimates** are prepared according to Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) methodology and are comparable with the U.S. and other states' data. For more information, go to page 14.

Economic Comparison

Seasonally Adjusted	Preliminary APRIL 2006		Revised Preliminary MARCH 2006		Revised APRIL 2005	
Civilian Labor Force	United States	Louisiana	United States	Louisiana	United States	Louisiana
Labor Force	150,811,000	1,872,671	150,652,000	1,871,974	148,839,000	2,108,153
Employed	143,688,000	1,782,608	143,641,000	1,782,722	141,196,000	1,997,840
Unemployed	7,123,000	90,063	7,011,000	89,252	7,644,000	110,313
Unemployment Rate	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.8	5.1	5.2

Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment	APR 2006 United States	APR 2006 Louisiana	MAR 2006 United States	MAR 2006 Revised Louisiana	APR 2005 United States	APR 2005 Louisiana
Total Nonfarm	135,068,000	1,759,500	134,930,000	1,763,900	133,104,000	1,941,500
Nat. Resources and Mining	669,000	47,400	661,000	46,800	620,000	45,400
Construction	7,510,000	107,200	7,500,000	105,900	7,243,000	120,500
Manufacturing	14,246,000	143,600	14,227,000	143,700	14,256,000	154,700
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	26,063,000	361,300	26,077,000	364,100	25,861,000	382,100
Information	3,071,000	28,100	3,073,000	28,300	3,072,000	29,700
Financial Activities	8,313,000	94,300	8,287,000	94,500	8,100,000	99,000
Professional and Business Services	17,233,000	168,800	17,205,000	166,700	16,780,000	191,400
Educational and Health Services	17,656,000	210,100	17,621,000	212,800	17,241,000	256,700
Leisure and Hospitality	13,006,000	170,100	12,986,000	171,700	12,770,000	210,200
Other Services	5,397,000	58,500	5,396,000	58,100	5,393,000	71,500
Government	21,904,000	370,100	21,897,000	371,300	21,768,000	380,300

Average Hours & Earnings

Natural Resources & Mining	United States (Not Seasonally Adjusted)			Louisiana (Not Seasonally Adjusted)		
	APR 2006	MAR 2006	APR 2005	APR 2006	MAR 2006	APR 2005
Average Weekly Earnings	\$ 895.58	\$ 874.16	\$ 846.71	\$960.87	\$983.97	\$961.09
Average Weekly Hours	45.3	44.6	45.4	44.3	42.8	46.7
Average Hourly Wages	\$ 19.77	\$ 19.60	\$ 18.65	\$21.69	\$22.99	\$20.58
Manufacturing						
Average Weekly Earnings	\$ 675.83	\$ 685.52	\$ 663.34	\$800.26	\$773.08	\$721.65
Average Weekly Hours	40.3	41.0	40.3	41.4	42.5	42.5
Average Hourly Wages	\$ 16.77	\$ 16.72	\$ 16.46	\$19.33	\$18.19	\$16.98

Louisiana Unemployment Insurance Activities

Claims	APR 2006	Revised MAR 2006	APR 2005	% Change From	
				MAR 2006	APR 2005
Initial New & Renewals	8,642	9,422	12,246	-8.3	-29.4
Continued Weekly Intrastate Only	77,452	113,018	99,427	-31.5	-22.1
Insured Unemployment Rate*	2.1	2.8	1.6	-24.7	29.4
Benefits					
Number of First Payment	3,631	4,554	5,672	-20.3	-36.0
Benefits Paid (000's)	\$ 16,577	\$ 27,399	\$ 16,617	-39.5	-0.2
Weeks Compensated	90,158	141,949	87,204	-36.5	3.4
Average Wkly. Benefit Amount	\$ 185.58	\$ 194.76	\$ 193.60	-4.7	-4.1
Average Duration of Claim (Weeks)	NA	NA	15.4	NA	NA
Exhaustions	5,718	22,020	2,479	-74.0	130.7

* Insured unemployment rate is for the week including the 12th of the month.

United States Consumer Price Index

	APR 2006	% Change From:		MAR 2006	% Change From:	
	Index	Prior Month	Prior Year	Index	Prior Month	Prior Year
All Urban Consumers	201.5	+ 0.9	+3.5	199.8	+ 0.6	+3.4

Not Seasonally Adjusted State and Area Employment

The Louisiana Department of Labor, in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), continues to closely monitor the economic impact of the recent hurricanes on the business and household surveys in the affected parishes. In producing the post-hurricane estimates, BLS announced that a number of modifications were made to standard estimating procedures to better reflect the employment part the civilian labor force estimates. For a detailed explanation of the effects of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita on all of the BLS program's methodology, please go to <http://stats.bls.gov/katrina/cpscesquestions.htm>.

Total nonfarm employment (not seasonally adjusted) for Louisiana was 1,765,100 for April of this year. In comparison, total nonfarm employment was 1,766,400 for March 2006 and 1,949,200 for April of last year. There was a decline of 1,300 from one month ago. The loss of 184,100 from one year ago includes the loss of business caused by two catastrophic hurricanes.

Total nonfarm employment in the Alexandria MSA, estimated at 64,400 for April, showed a decrease of 1,300 from March. However, when compared to the year-ago figure, there was a gain of 1,700 jobs. Both supersectors were responsible for the over-the-month loss as well as the over-the-year gain.

Total nonfarm employment for the Baton Rouge MSA was estimated at 365,000 for April. The previous month's revised estimate was 363,500 and the previous year's estimate was 352,500. Over the month, goods producing rose by 1,000 and service providing was up 500. Over the year, goods producing gained 3,200 and service providing increased by 9,300.

In April, total nonfarm employment was 86,600 in the Houma-Bayou Cane-Thibodaux MSA. Goods producing employment was up 500 from March and 1,500 more than this same time last year. Service providing edged up slightly by 200 for both the 30-day and the 12-month intervals.

The Lafayette MSA total nonfarm employment for March reached a level of 141,300. When compared to one month and one year ago, employment rose 100 and 5,100, respectively. Since February, both supersectors experienced growth. Notably, positive movement was recorded for both supersectors over the year as well.

The Lake Charles MSA's total nonfarm employment estimate was 91,500. When compared to the March revised level of 91,900 employment decreased 400. On the other hand, when compared to last year, employment increased 1,200. Both supersectors dropped from March. Over the year, goods producing gained jobs while service providing lost jobs.

Total nonfarm employment was 79,800 for April in the Monroe MSA. This estimate represents an increase over the month of 300 and growth over the year of 1,000. Over the month, goods producing and service providing increased 200 and 100, respectively. Over the year, service providing added 1,200 jobs while goods producing reported 200 fewer jobs.

Total nonfarm employment for April in the New Orleans MSA was 424,400. Over the 30-day period employment dipped 1,300 as both goods producing and service providing employment contracted. When comparing the current estimate to the year-ago estimate there was a loss of 190,500 in employment. Once again, the majority of this decline can be attributed to the devastation reeked by hurricane Katrina.

Total nonfarm employment in the Shreveport-Bossier City MSA was 178,500 for April. This number reflects a small increase from last month and a substantial increase from this same time last year. Goods producing was up over the month while service providing was down. Over the year, both supersectors experienced gains with service providing producing a little over 78 percent of the growth.

Key to Graphs

The following graphs have been designed to reflect the over-the-year trends in the statistical data. Below are the most frequently used abbreviations.

OTM refers to the over-the-month change in employment

OTY refers to the over-the-year change in employment

SA refers to seasonally adjusted estimates

NSA refers to not seasonally adjusted estimates

Graphs for statewide reflect seasonally adjusted (SA) estimates compared to not seasonally adjusted (NSA) data.

Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) graphs denote nonfarm employment levels compared to a three year red trend line of the estimated employment. The gold lines in these graphs are the over-the-month changes for each year.

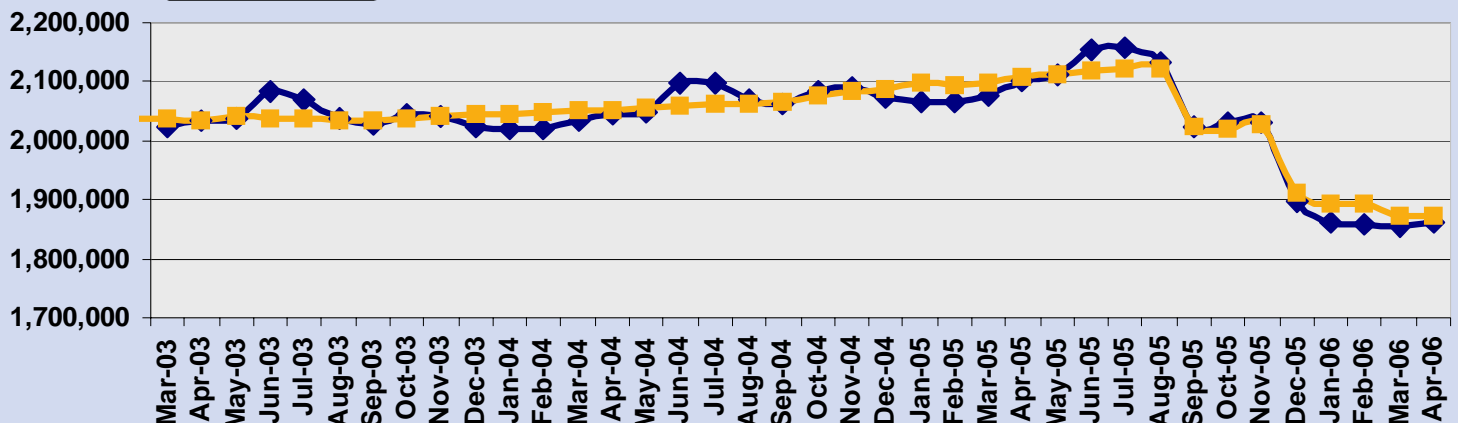
April 2006

Louisiana Civilian Labor Force

SA
1,872,671
OTM: 697
OTY: - 235,482

NSA
1,862,562
OTM: 8,854
OTY: -240,324

NSA SA



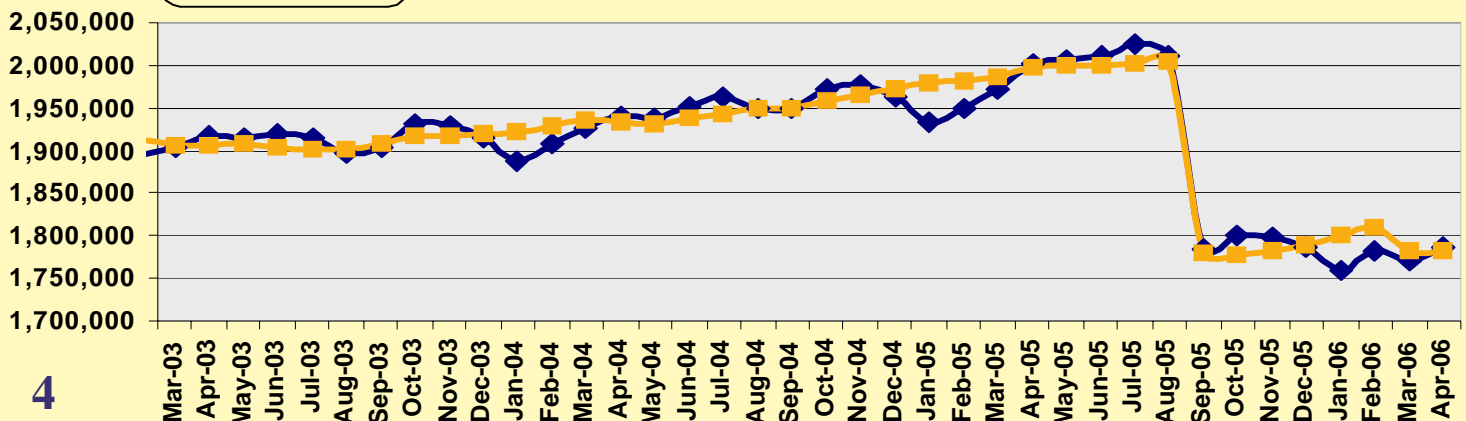
April 2006

Louisiana Civilian Labor Force Employment

SA
1,782,608
OTM: -114
OTY: -215,232

NSA
1,785,879
OTM: 14,051
OTY: - 217,155

NSA SA

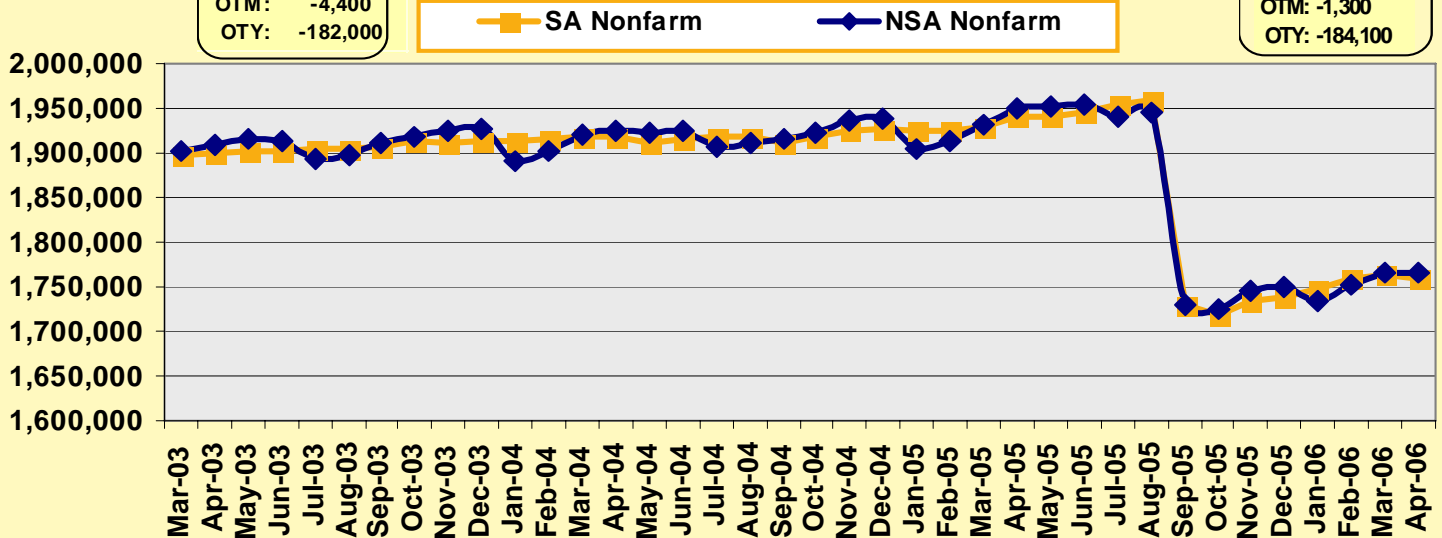


April 2006

Louisiana Nonfarm Employment

SA
1,759,500
OTM: -4,400
OTY: -182,000

NSA
1,765,100
OTM: -1,300
OTY: -184,100



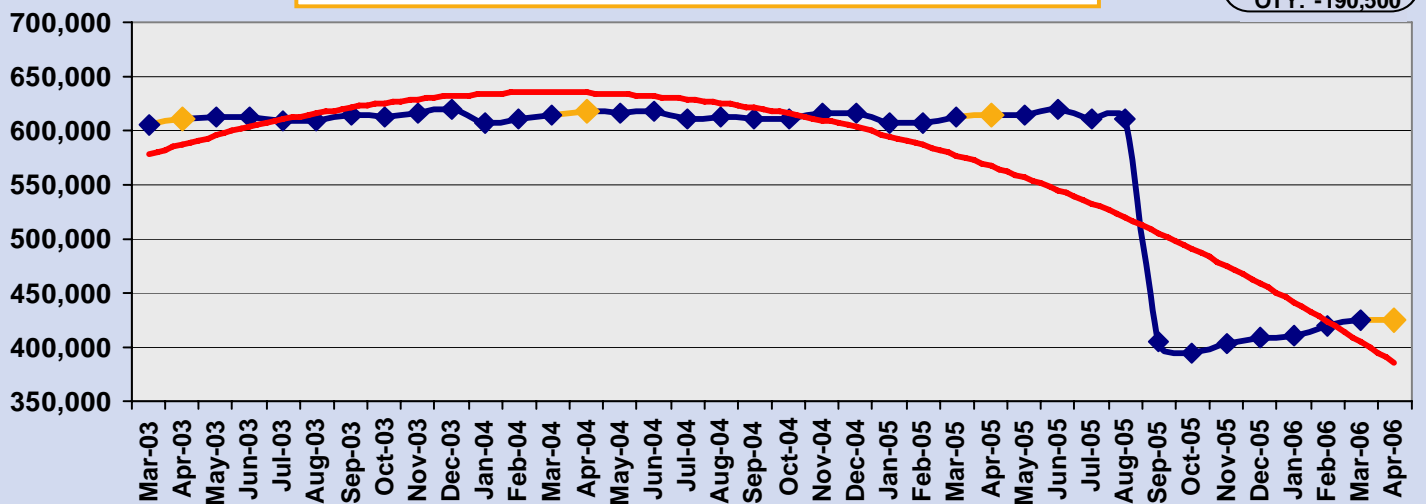
April 2006

New Orleans Nonfarm Employment

Monthly Estimate

3 Year Trend

NSA
424,400
OTM: -1,300
OTY: -190,500



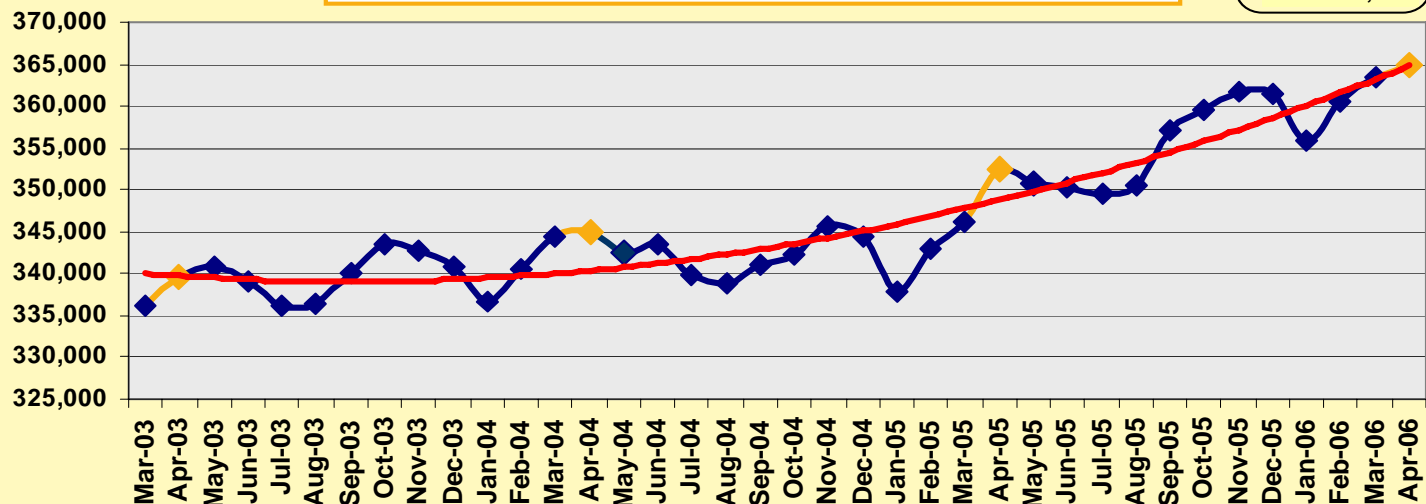
April 2006

Baton Rouge Nonfarm Employment

Monthly Estimate

3 Year Trend

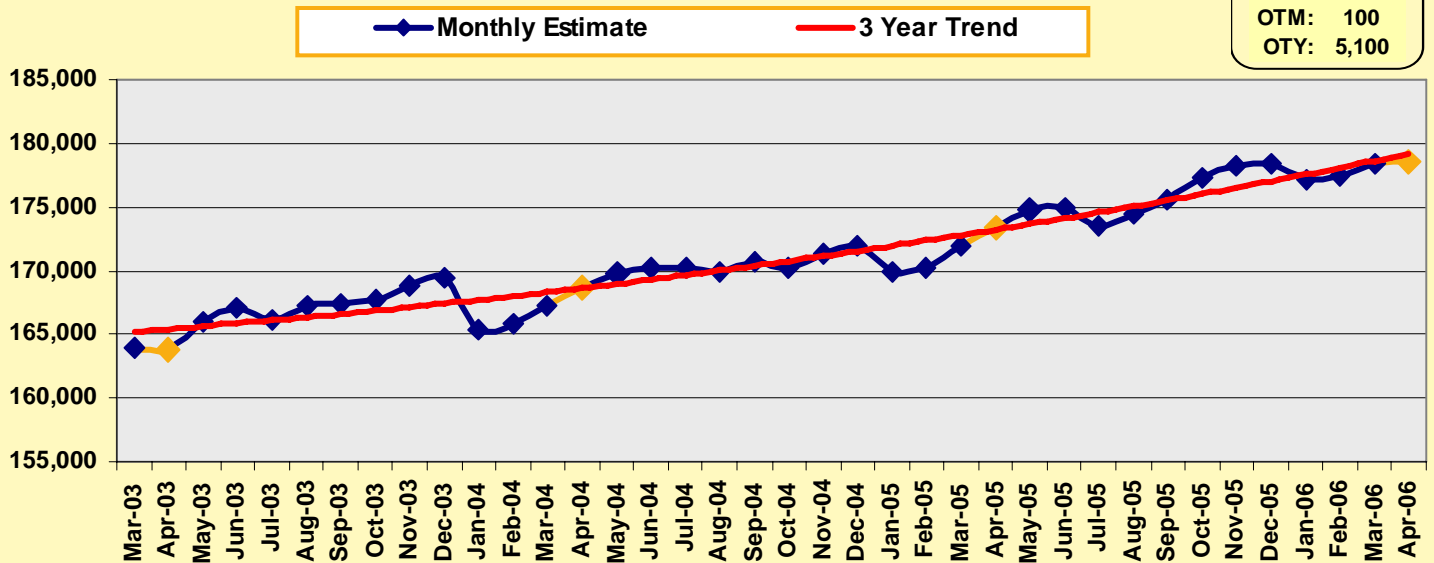
NSA
365,000
OTM: 1,500
OTY: 12,500



April 2006

Shreveport Nonfarm Employment

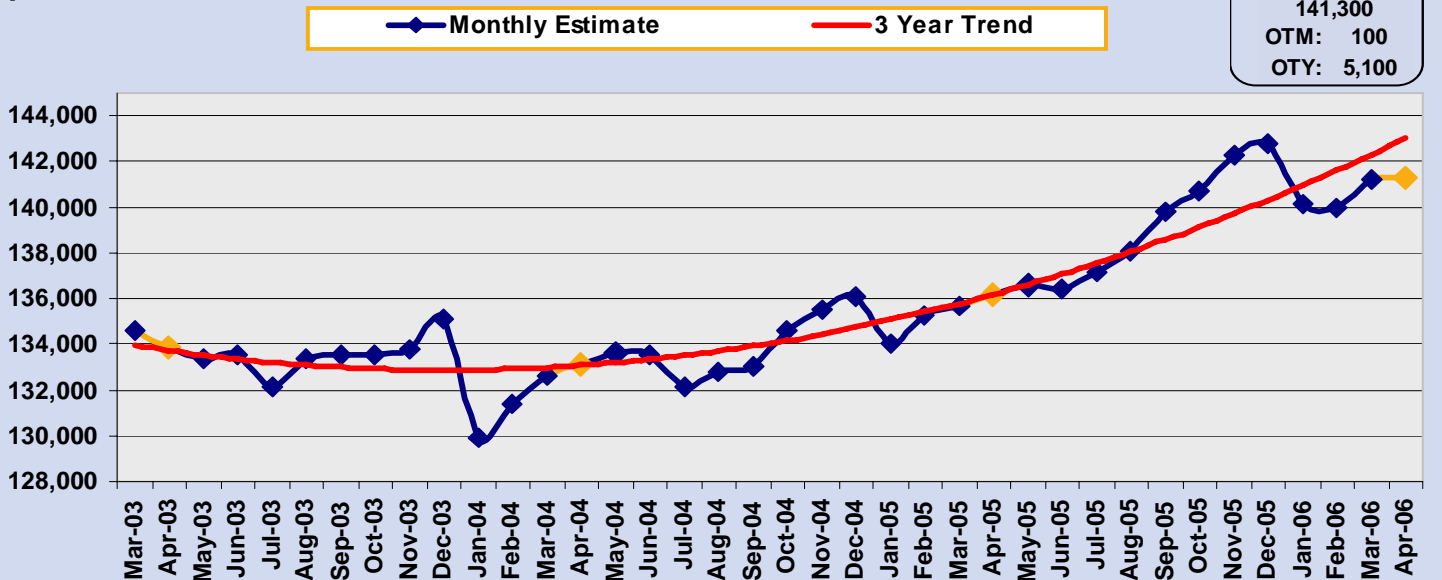
NSA
178,500
OTM: 100
OTY: 5,100



April 2006

Lafayette Nonfarm Employment

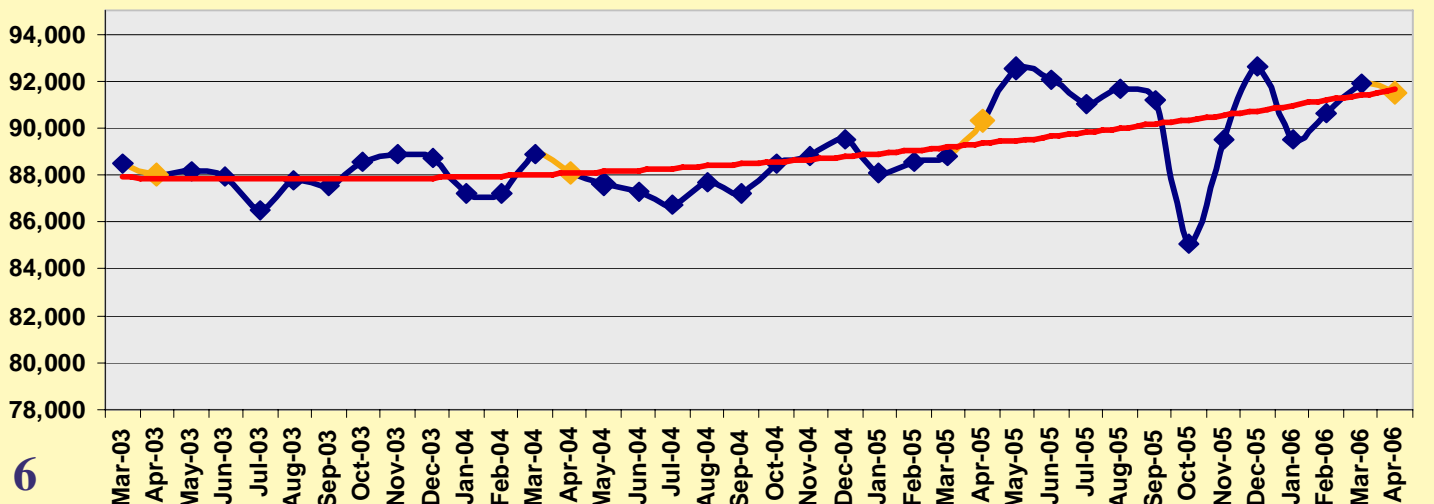
NSA
141,300
OTM: 100
OTY: 5,100



April 2006

Lake Charles Nonfarm Employment

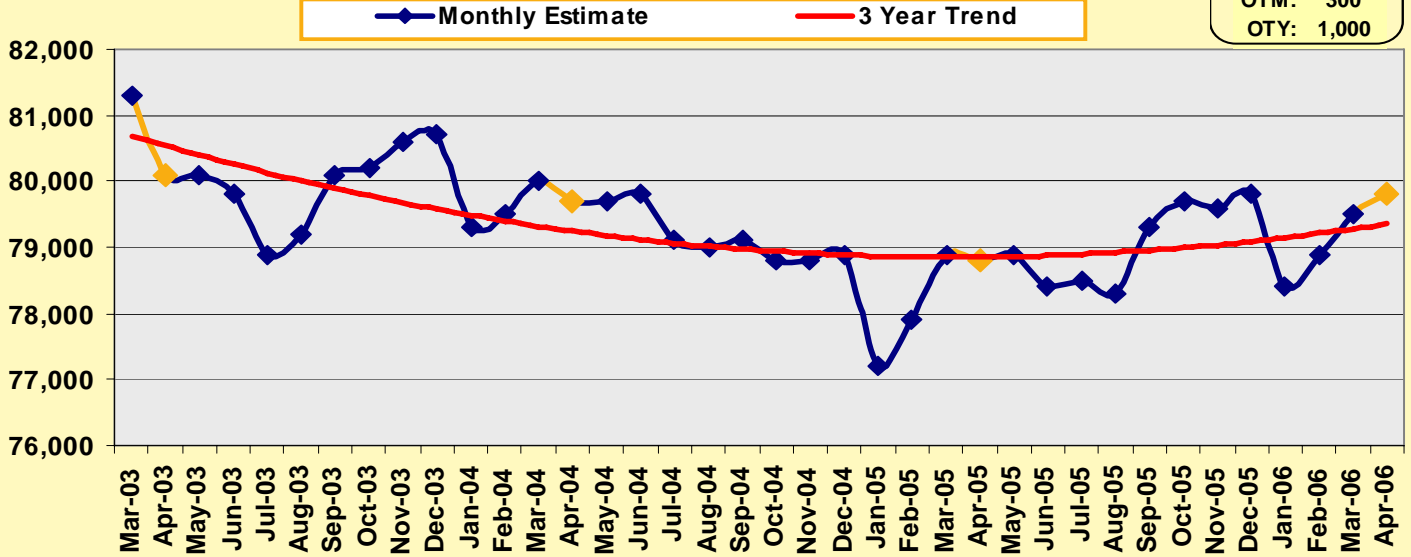
NSA
91,500
OTM: -400
OTY: 1,200



April 2006

Monroe Nonfarm Employment

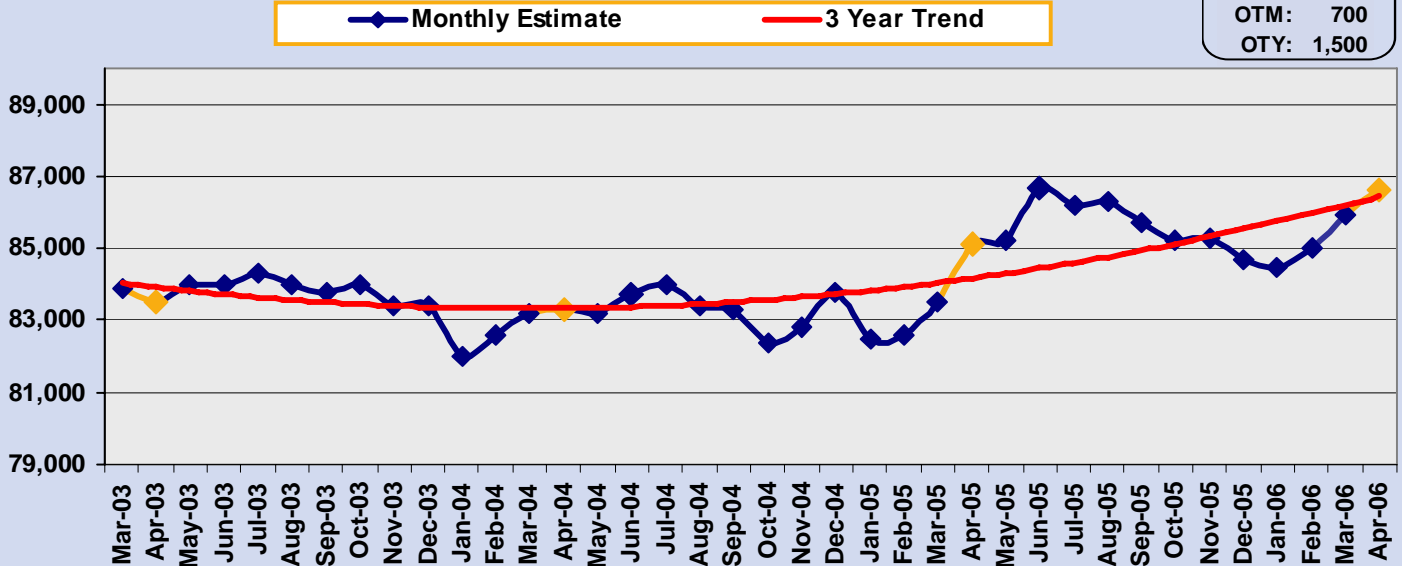
NSA
79,800
OTM: 300
OTY: 1,000



April 2006

Houma Nonfarm Employment

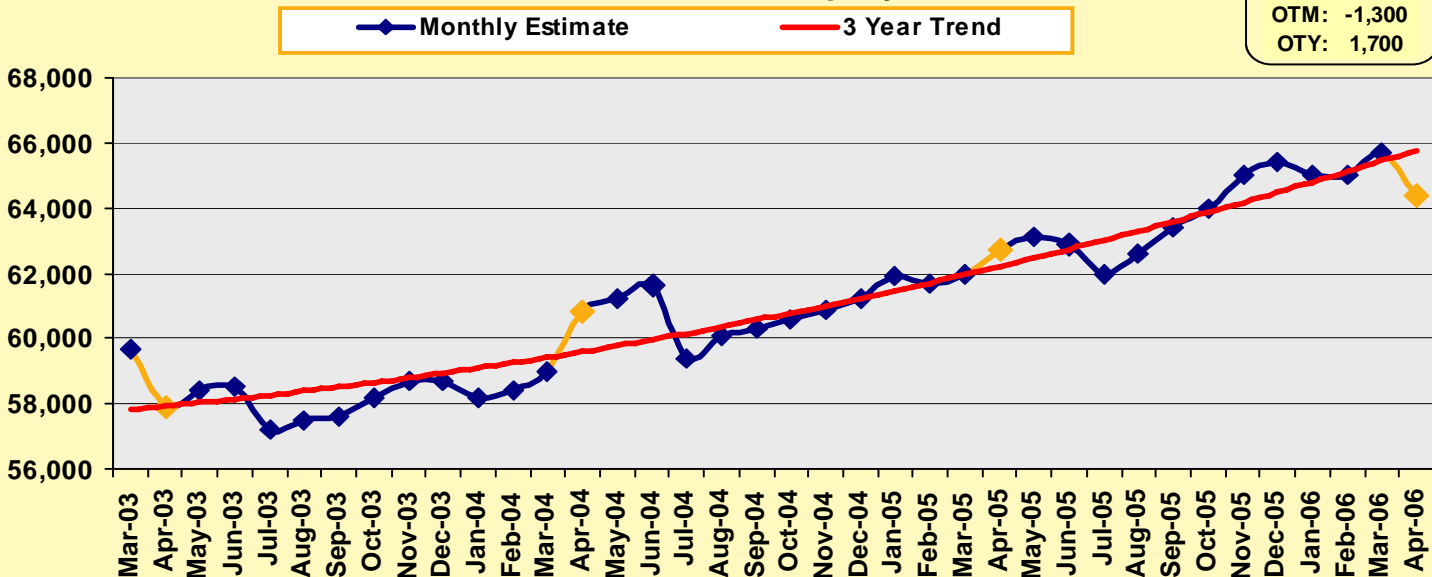
NSA
86,600
OTM: 700
OTY: 1,500



April 2006

Alexandria Nonfarm Employment

NSA
64,400
OTM: -1,300
OTY: 1,700



Not Seasonally Adjusted	LOUISIANA			NEW ORLEANS-METairie-Kenner MSA			BATON ROUGE MSA		
	PREL	REV	REV	PREL	REV	REV	PREL	REV	REV
	APR	MAR	APR	APR	MAR	APR	APR	MAR	APR
	2006	2006	2005	2006	2006	2005	2006	2006	2005
Total Nonfarm	1,765,100	1,766,400	1,949,200	424,400	425,700	614,900	365,000	363,500	352,500
Total Private	1,391,300	1,391,100	1,564,900	333,400	334,000	509,800	288,800	286,700	277,200
Goods Producing	297,800	295,900	320,200	56,900	57,300	76,500	68,300	67,300	65,100
Natural Resources & Mining	47,400	46,800	45,400						
Natural Resources & Mining & Construction				28,800	29,300	38,100	41,900	41,000	39,100
Mining	44,100	43,500	42,200	9,800	9,900	8,300			
Oil & Gas Extraction	8,100	8,100	8,100	3,200	3,300	3,500			
Crude Petroleum & Natural Gas Extraction	8,100	8,000	7,900						
Support Activities for Mining	34,700	34,100	32,700						
Drilling Oil & Gas Wells	7,600	7,400	7,900						
Construction	106,900	106,200	120,900	18,800	19,100	29,800	40,100	39,100	37,500
Building, Development, General Construction, & Heavy Construction									
Construction of Buildings	24,500	24,600	25,300				9,300	9,000	9,400
Residential Building Construction	8,000	8,000	7,400						
Nonresidential Building Construction	16,500	16,600	17,900				7,400	7,900	8,300
Heavy & Civil Engineering Construction	33,700	33,200	35,600	5,600	5,800	7,400	13,900	13,700	12,700
Utility System Construction	20,300	20,200	19,400						
Specialty Trade Contractors	48,700	48,400	60,000	9,300	9,500	16,500	16,900	16,400	15,400
Manufacturing	143,500	142,900	153,900	28,100	28,000	38,400	26,400	26,300	26,000
Durable Goods	75,800	75,000	79,600	15,000	14,800	20,700			
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	22,300	22,200	23,700	10,200	10,200	11,700			
Ship & Boat Building	13,900	13,700	15,100	7,900	8,000	9,500			
Nondurable Goods	67,700	67,900	74,300	13,100	13,200	17,700	17,800	18,000	17,900
Food Manufacturing	14,200	14,000	17,400						
Paper Manufacturing	9,300	9,400	9,900						
Petroleum & Coal Products Mfg. & Chemical Mfg.									
Petroleum & Coal Products Manufacturing	10,400	10,400	10,100	3,200	3,100	3,200			
Chemical Manufacturing	22,500	22,600	23,500	4,800	4,900	4,900	10,100	10,200	10,100
Basic Chemical Manufacturing	11,800	11,900	12,700				5,500	5,500	5,700
Resin, Synthetic Rubber, & Artif. & Synthetic Fibers & Filaments							3,200	3,300	3,100
Service Providing	1,467,300	1,470,500	1,629,000	367,500	368,400	538,400	296,700	296,200	287,400
Private Service Providing	1,093,500	1,095,200	1,244,700	276,500	276,700	433,300	220,500	219,400	212,100
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	361,300	362,800	381,300	88,200	88,500	122,900	66,100	65,700	63,000
Wholesale Trade	72,300	72,100	75,000	20,200	20,000	25,800	13,100	13,200	12,700
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	34,400	34,500	38,000	8,200	8,300	12,400			
Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	27,500	27,300	27,800	9,500	9,500	9,600			
Retail Trade	211,000	212,300	224,900	42,300	42,800	67,600	39,000	39,100	37,800
Clothing & Clothing Accessories Stores, General Merchandise									
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	24,500	24,500	28,500						
Building Material & Garden Equipment & Supplies Dealers	20,700	20,200	19,400						
Food & Beverage Stores	31,600	31,600	40,300	3,900	3,800	12,500	6,400	6,400	6,300
Grocery Stores	30,400	30,600	34,100	3,700	3,600	10,100	6,000	6,000	5,400
Health & Personal Care Stores	13,100	13,400	14,600	3,500	3,400	5,300			
Gasoline Stations	17,200	17,000	18,500						
Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores	15,000	14,700	18,600						
General Merchandise Stores	48,500	50,300	50,700	5,700	5,900	14,100	9,000	9,300	8,500
Department Stores	14,800	15,300	16,200				2,600	2,700	2,400
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	78,000	78,400	81,400	25,700	25,700	29,500	14,000	13,400	12,500
Utilities	8,700	8,600	9,600	2,800	2,700	2,800			
Transportation and Warehousing	69,300	69,800	71,800	22,900	23,000	26,700			
Truck Transportation	13,700	14,000	18,500						
Support Activities for Transportation	19,900	20,000	20,700						
Support Activities for Water Transportation									
Information	28,100	28,200	29,500	7,700	7,800	9,500	5,700	5,700	5,900
Telecommunications	11,700	11,700	12,900						
Financial Activities	94,300	94,600	98,800	24,200	24,400	32,900	19,000	18,900	18,100
Finance & Insurance	59,100	59,500	64,200	10,700	10,800	20,900	13,200	13,300	12,900
Credit Intermediation & Related Activities	33,700	33,800	34,400	7,600	7,700	10,400			
Depository Credit Intermediation	22,500	22,700	23,600	5,100	5,200	7,600	4,500	4,500	4,000
Insurance Carriers & Related Activities	22,500	22,500	25,300						
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	35,200	35,100	34,600						
Professional & Business Services	169,400	167,700	193,900	44,900	43,600	76,800	40,600	40,000	39,700
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services	59,100	59,000	75,100	14,600	14,300	28,700	16,800	16,700	16,000
Legal Services	13,700	13,700	20,100	5,800	5,700	9,000			
Accounting, Tax Preparation, Bookkeeping & Payroll Services	7,700	8,100	11,400						
Architectural, Engineering, & Related Services	19,800	20,100	19,300						
Management of Companies & Enterprises	21,900	21,600	22,500	6,300	6,100	8,700			
Admin. & Support & Waste Mgmt. & Remediation Serv.	88,400	87,100	96,300	24,000	23,200	39,400	19,900	19,300	19,700
Administrative & Support Services	83,300	82,100	89,900	21,900	21,100	37,400			
Employment Services	37,500	37,800	36,300	8,000	8,000	15,700			
Services to Buildings & Dwellings	14,500	14,600	20,600						
Educational & Health Services	211,300	213,700	258,300	45,500	47,000	82,500	41,600	41,600	40,100
Educational Services	27,800	29,700	39,900	9,700	11,600	20,600			
Colleges, Universities, & Professional Schools	18,200	20,000	26,900	6,900	8,700	10,400			
Health Care & Social Assistance	183,500	184,000	218,400	35,800	35,400	61,900	36,200	36,100	34,300
Ambulatory Health Care Services	70,700	71,000	75,600	12,600	12,400	21,800	14,800	15,000	13,300
Offices of Physicians	27,400	27,200	31,200						
Home Health Care Services	15,500	15,300	15,200						
Hospitals	55,600	55,800	65,300	17,100	17,000	20,600	11,400	11,400	10,400
General Medical & Surgical Hospitals	50,300	50,300	55,000						
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	33,900	33,900	44,800						
Nursing Care Facilities	25,000	24,900	28,600						
Social Assistance	23,300	23,300	32,700						
Leisure & Hospitality	171,100	170,500	211,200	56,400	55,800	86,300	33,100	33,100	31,500
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	29,600	29,100	36,800	6,400	6,400	14,100			
Amusement, Gambling, & Recreation Industries	25,400	24,900	30,900	4,900	4,900	10,400			
Gambling Industries	14,900	14,700	19,700	2,700	2,700	6,000			
Casinos (except Casino hotels)	14,100	13,900	17,700						
Accommodation & Food Services	141,500	141,400	174,400	50,000	49,400	72,200	28,400	28,500	26,900
Accommodation	14,100	14,200	27,000	11,300	11,500	15,500			
Food Services & Drinking Places	127,400	127,200	147,400	38,700	37,900	56,700	25,800	25,800	24,200
Other Services	58,000	57,700	71,700	9,600	9,600	22,400	14,400	14,400	13,800
Repair & Maintenance	17,700	17,700	21,000						
Automotive Repair & Maintenance	9,700	9,700	11,900						
Personal & Laundry Services	14,600	14,400	18,100						
Government	373,800	375,300	384,300	91,000	91,700	105,100	76,200	76,800	75,300
Federal Government	32,900	33,300	34,300	13,200	13,400	15,700	3,600	3,700	2,600
State Government	118,300	119,200	122,100	24,100	24,400	26,500	40,600	41,000	41,500
Local Government	222,600	222,800	227,900	53,700	53,900	62,900	32,000	32,100	31,200

LOUISIANA & MSAs NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

9(a)

	SHREVEPORT-BOSSIER CITY MSA			LAFAYETTE MSA			LAKE CHARLES MSA		
	PREL	REV	REV	PREL	REV	REV	PREL	REV	REV
	APR	MAR	APR	APR	MAR	APR	APR	MAR	APR
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>	2006	2006	2005	2006	2006	2005	2006	2006	2005
Total Nonfarm	178,500	178,400	173,400	141,300	141,200	136,200	91,500	91,900	90,300
Total Private	144,000	143,700	139,900	124,500	124,400	120,100	76,600	77,000	75,100
Goods Producing	27,500	27,200	26,400	29,400	29,100	28,600	22,200	22,500	19,600
Natural Resources & Mining									
Natural Resources & Mining & Construction	13,200	12,900	11,800	21,000	20,800	19,800	13,600	13,800	10,700
Mining				14,200	13,900	13,300			
Oil & Gas Extraction									
Crude Petroleum & Natural Gas Extraction									
Support Activities for Mining				12,900	12,600	12,200			
Drilling Oil & Gas Wells									
Construction	9,500	9,400	8,300						
Building, Development, General Construction, & Heavy Construction							5,500	5,500	5,700
Construction of Buildings									
Residential Building Construction									
Nonresidential Building Construction									
Heavy & Civil Engineering Construction							4,500	4,500	4,600
Utility System Construction									
Specialty Trade Contractors									
Manufacturing	14,300	14,300	14,600	8,400	8,300	8,800	8,600	8,700	8,900
Durable Goods									
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	3,800	4,000	4,400						
Ship & Boat Building									
Nondurable Goods							7,100	7,100	7,200
Food Manufacturing									
Paper Manufacturing									
Petroleum & Coal Products Mfg. & Chemical Mfg.							6,500	6,500	6,700
Petroleum & Coal Products Manufacturing									
Chemical Manufacturing							4,000	4,000	4,300
Basic Chemical Manufacturing									
Resin, Synthetic Rubber, & Artific. & Synthetic Fibers & Filaments									
Service Providing	151,000	151,200	147,000	111,900	112,100	107,600	69,300	69,400	70,700
Private Service Providing	116,500	116,500	113,500	95,100	95,300	91,500	54,400	54,500	55,500
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	33,800	34,000	33,100	28,300	28,400	27,600	17,000	17,300	17,300
Wholesale Trade	7,100	7,100	7,000	6,800	6,800	6,400			
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods									
Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods									
Retail Trade	20,000	20,200	19,700	17,100	17,200	17,000	9,900	10,300	10,600
Clothing & Clothing Accessories Stores, General Merchandise							3,400	3,500	3,500
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers									
Building Material & Garden Equipment & Supplies Dealers									
Food & Beverage Stores									
Grocery Stores									
Health & Personal Care Stores									
Gasoline Stations									
Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores									
General Merchandise Stores	4,400	4,500	4,100	3,100	3,100	3,100			
Department Stores									
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	6,700	6,700	6,400	4,400	4,400	4,200			
Utilities									
Transportation and Warehousing									
Truck Transportation									
Support Activities for Transportation									
Support Activities for Water Transportation									
Information	2,900	2,900	2,900	3,300	3,400	3,200			
Telecommunications									
Financial Activities	7,400	7,400	7,300	8,700	8,800	8,100			
Finance & Insurance									
Credit Intermediation & Related Activities									
Depository Credit Intermediation									
Insurance Carriers & Related Activities									
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing									
Professional & Business Services	17,000	16,900	15,100	15,000	15,000	14,200	7,100	6,800	6,900
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services				6,700	6,800	6,600			
Legal Services									
Accounting, Tax Preparation, Bookkeeping & Payroll Services									
Architectural, Engineering, & Related Services									
Management of Companies & Enterprises									
Admin. & Support & Waste Mgmt. & Remediation Serv.	8,400	8,400	8,100	5,600	5,500	5,200			
Administrative & Support Services									
Employment Services									
Services to Buildings & Dwellings									
Educational & Health Services	23,600	23,500	23,400	20,700	20,800	20,000			
Educational Services									
Colleges, Universities, & Professional Schools									
Health Care & Social Assistance	22,600	22,500	22,300	19,000	19,100	18,400			
Ambulatory Health Care Services									
Offices of Physicians									
Home Health Care Services									
Hospitals	8,300	8,300	8,500	5,300	5,500	5,200	3,200	3,100	3,300
General Medical & Surgical Hospitals	6,600	6,600	6,900						
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities									
Nursing Care Facilities									
Social Assistance									
Leisure & Hospitality	24,200	24,200	23,900	14,400	14,200	13,800	11,300	11,500	12,000
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	10,000	9,900	9,800						
Amusement, Gambling, & Recreation Industries	9,400	9,300	9,400						
Gambling Industries	8,100	7,900	8,500						
Casinos (except Casino hotels)									
Accommodation & Food Services	14,200	14,300	14,100	13,100	13,100	12,200	10,200	10,500	9,000
Accommodation									
Food Services & Drinking Places	13,100	13,100	12,800	12,200	12,200	11,200			
Other Services	7,600	7,600	7,800	4,700	4,700	4,600			
Repair & Maintenance									
Automotive Repair & Maintenance									
Personal & Laundry Services									
Government	34,500	34,700	33,500	16,800	16,800	16,100	14,900	14,900	15,200
Federal Government	4,600	4,600	4,700	1,100	1,100	1,100	600	600	700
State Government	10,700	10,800	10,000	5,200	5,200	5,300	4,200	4,200	4,300
Local Government	19,200	19,300	18,800	10,500	10,500	9,700	10,100	10,100	10,200

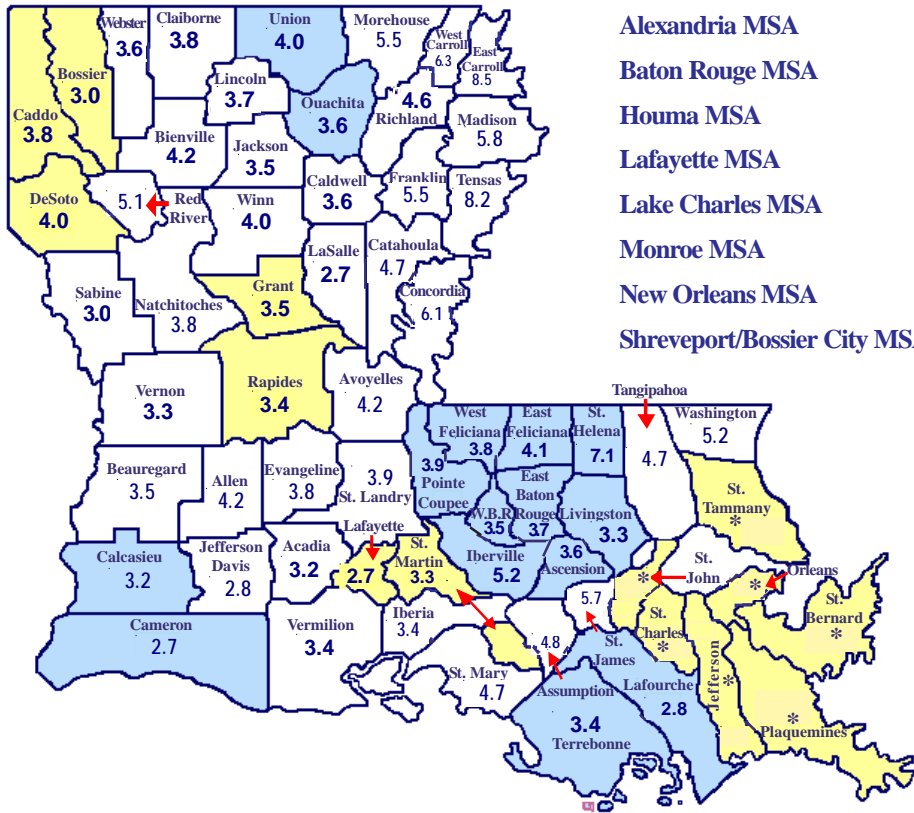
9(b) LOUISIANA & MSAs NONFARM EMPLOYMENT									
	MONROE MSA			HOUMA-BAYOU CANE- THIBODAUX MSA			ALEXANDRIA MSA		
	PREL	REV	REV	PREL	REV	REV	PREL	REV	REV
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i>	APR	MAR	APR	APR	MAR	APR	APR	MAR	APR
	2006	2006	2005	2006	2006	2005	2006	2006	2005
Total Nonfarm	79,800	79,500	78,800	86,600	85,900	85,100	64,400	65,700	62,700
Total Private	65,100	64,900	64,500	72,100	71,800	70,700	48,800	50,000	47,300
Goods Producing	12,500	12,300	12,700	19,600	19,100	18,300	8,700	8,900	8,300
Natural Resources & Mining									
Natural Resources & Mining & Construction				13,900	13,500	12,600			
Mining				6,400	6,200	5,900			
Oil & Gas Extraction									
Crude Petroleum & Natural Gas Extraction									
Support Activities for Mining				5,800	5,600	5,300			
Drilling Oil & Gas Wells									
Construction									
Building, Development, General Construction, & Heavy Construction									
Construction of Buildings									
Residential Building Construction									
Nonresidential Building Construction									
Heavy & Civil Engineering Construction									
Utility System Construction									
Specialty Trade Contractors				2,700	2,600	2,400			
Manufacturing	8,400	8,500	8,900						
Durable Goods				6,900	6,700	6,900			
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing									
Ship & Boat Building									
Nondurable Goods	5,600	5,600	6,000						
Food Manufacturing									
Paper Manufacturing									
Petroleum & Coal Products Mfg. & Chemical Mfg.									
Petroleum & Coal Products Manufacturing									
Chemical Manufacturing									
Basic Chemical Manufacturing									
Resin, Synthetic Rubber, & Artif. & Synthetic Fibers & Filaments									
Service Providing	67,300	67,200	66,100	67,000	66,800	66,800	55,700	56,800	54,400
Private Service Providing	52,600	52,600	51,800	52,500	52,700	52,400	40,100	41,100	39,000
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	14,600	14,700	14,400	20,800	21,000	20,500	10,800	11,200	11,200
Wholesale Trade									
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods									
Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods									
Retail Trade	9,900	10,000	9,500	10,500	10,500	10,300	7,700	8,000	7,600
Clothing & Clothing Accessories Stores, General Merchandise	3,500	3,600	3,300						
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers									
Building Material & Garden Equipment & Supplies Dealers									
Food & Beverage Stores									
Grocery Stores									
Health & Personal Care Stores									
Gasoline Stations									
Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores									
General Merchandise Stores									
Department Stores									
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities									
Utilities									
Transportation and Warehousing									
Truck Transportation									
Support Activities for Transportation				4,400	4,500	4,400			
Support Activities for Water Transportation				4,300	4,300	4,100			
Information									
Telecommunications									
Financial Activities									
Finance & Insurance									
Credit Intermediation & Related Activities									
Depository Credit Intermediation									
Insurance Carriers & Related Activities									
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing									
Professional & Business Services	7,000	6,900	7,400						
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services									
Legal Services									
Accounting, Tax Preparation, Bookkeeping & Payroll Services									
Architectural, Engineering, & Related Services									
Management of Companies & Enterprises									
Admin. & Support & Waste Mgmt. & Remediation Serv.									
Administrative & Support Services				4,500	4,400	4,400			
Employment Services				3,400	3,300	3,200			
Services to Buildings & Dwellings									
Educational & Health Services	13,300	13,400	12,900						
Educational Services									
Colleges, Universities, & Professional Schools									
Health Care & Social Assistance	12,600	12,700	12,200						
Ambulatory Health Care Services									
Offices of Physicians									
Home Health Care Services									
Hospitals	4,300	4,300	4,200				3,900	4,000	3,900
General Medical & Surgical Hospitals	3,500	3,600	3,400						
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities									
Nursing Care Facilities									
Social Assistance									
Leisure & Hospitality	6,500	6,600	6,800	6,400	6,300	6,700			
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation									
Amusement, Gambling, & Recreation Industries									
Gambling Industries									
Casinos (except Casino hotels)									
Accommodation & Food Services									
Accommodation									
Food Services & Drinking Places									
Other Services									
Repair & Maintenance									
Automotive Repair & Maintenance									
Personal & Laundry Services									
Government	14,700	14,600	14,300	14,500	14,100	14,400	15,600	15,700	15,400
Federal Government	600	600	600	400	400	400	2,800	2,800	2,800
State Government	5,100	5,100	4,900	3,700	3,600	3,400	5,400	5,400	5,400
Local Government	9,000	8,900	8,800	10,400	10,100	10,600	7,400	7,500	7,200

Louisiana Unemployment Rates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

April 2006

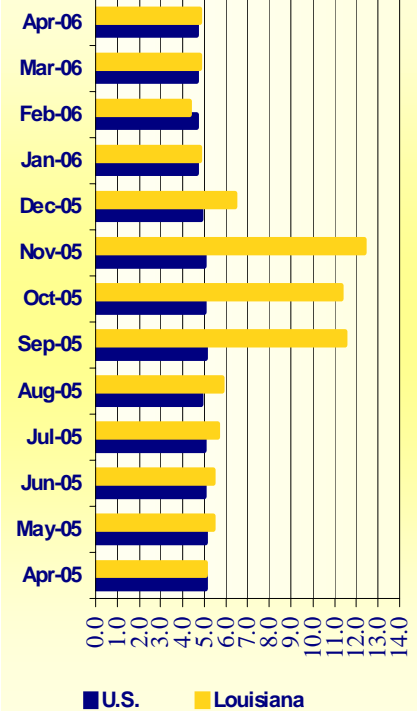
Statewide

4.1 %



Alexandria MSA	3.4 %
Baton Rouge MSA	3.7 %
Houma MSA	3.1 %
Lafayette MSA	2.9 %
Lake Charles MSA	3.2 %
Monroe MSA	3.6 %
New Orleans MSA	5.7 %
Shreveport/Bossier City MSA	3.6 %

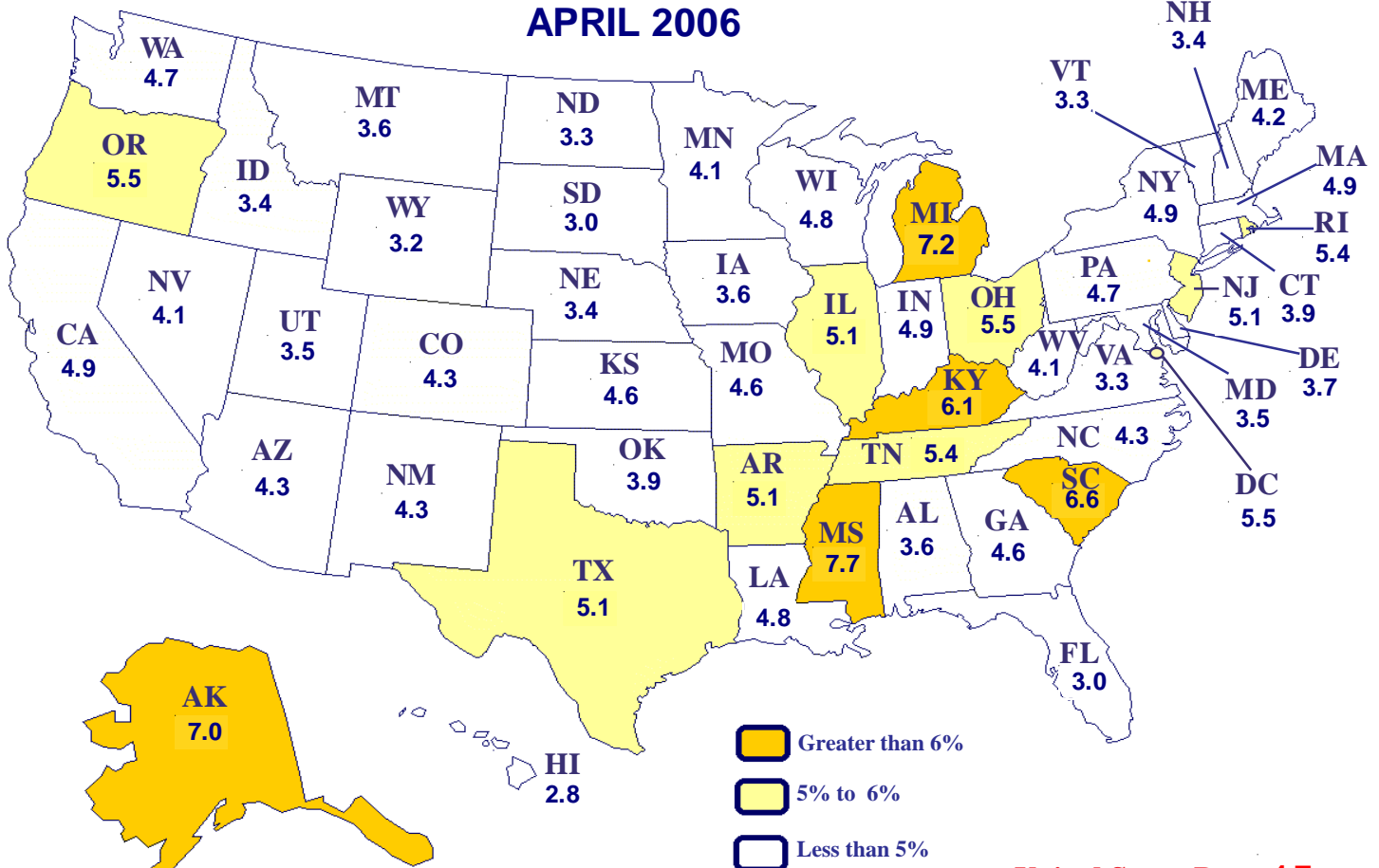
United States - Louisiana Unemployment Rates (Seasonally Adjusted)



* Household sample data were not available.

United States Unemployment Rates (Seasonally Adjusted)

APRIL 2006



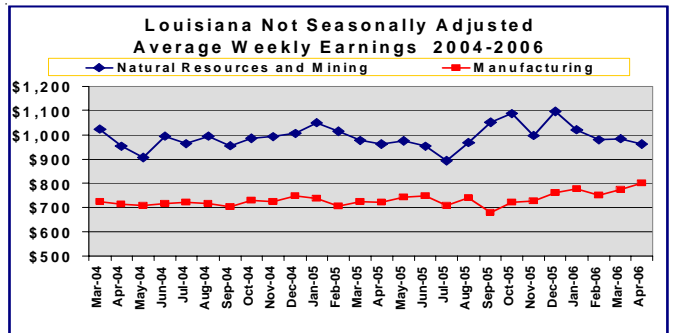
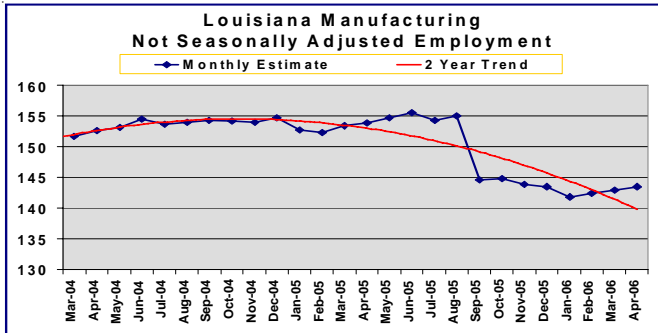
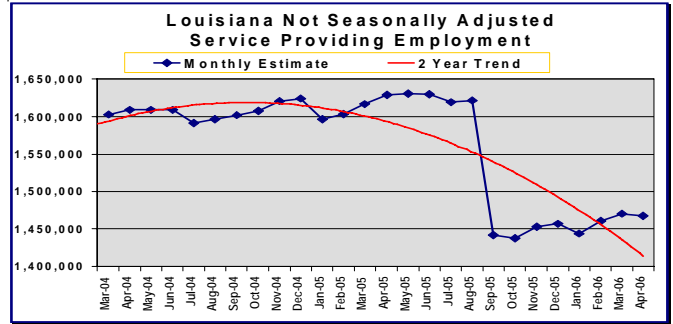
United States Rate 4.7

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Area	Preliminary April 2006			Preliminary (U.S. data is Revised) March 2006			Revised April 2005		
	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Employed	Unemployed	Rate	Employed	Unemployed	Rate
UNITED STATES	143,405,000	6,804,000	4.5	142,772,000	7,255,000	4.8	140,939,000	7,335,000	4.9
LOUISIANA	1,785,879	76,683	4.1	1,771,828	81,880	4.4	2,003,034	99,852	4.7
ALEXANDRIA MSA	63,677	2,225	3.4	64,567	2,319	3.5	63,960	3,102	4.6
Grant	7,921	287	3.5	8,031	289	3.5	7,956	445	5.3
Rapides	55,756	1,938	3.4	56,536	2,030	3.5	56,004	2,657	4.5
BATON ROUGE MSA	340,898	13,266	3.7	338,502	14,115	4.0	341,959	17,243	4.8
Ascension	41,987	1,576	3.6	41,692	1,586	3.7	42,117	2,010	4.6
East Baton Rouge	202,256	7,796	3.7	200,834	8,461	4.0	202,885	9,843	4.6
East Feliciana	7,828	335	4.1	7,773	340	4.2	7,853	415	5.0
Iberville	11,719	649	5.2	11,636	732	5.9	11,755	885	7.0
Livingston	49,409	1,694	3.3	49,061	1,674	3.3	49,562	2,245	4.3
Pointe Coupee	9,265	379	3.9	9,200	431	4.5	9,294	625	6.3
St. Helena	3,841	293	7.1	3,814	281	6.9	3,853	375	8.9
West Baton Rouge	10,007	364	3.5	9,937	396	3.8	10,038	581	5.5
West Feliciana	4,587	180	3.8	4,554	215	4.5	4,601	265	5.4
HOUMA-BAYOU CANE- THIBODAUX MSA	89,058	2,829	3.1	88,160	3,041	3.3	91,765	3,933	4.1
Lafourche	42,258	1,198	2.8	41,832	1,255	2.9	43,543	1,770	3.9
Terrebonne	46,800	1,631	3.4	46,328	1,786	3.7	48,222	2,163	4.3
LAFAYETTE MSA	120,276	3,530	2.9	119,257	3,767	3.1	120,072	4,689	3.8
Lafayette	98,745	2,786	2.7	97,909	2,972	2.9	98,578	3,686	3.6
St. Martin	21,531	744	3.3	21,348	795	3.6	21,494	1,003	4.5
LAKE CHARLES MSA	88,108	2,870	3.2	88,195	3,094	3.4	89,926	4,443	4.7
Calcasieu	83,859	2,753	3.2	83,942	2,933	3.4	85,589	4,248	4.7
Cameron	4,249	117	2.7	4,253	161	3.6	4,337	195	4.3
MONROE MSA	77,143	2,909	3.6	76,657	3,062	3.8	78,614	4,228	5.1
Ouachita	67,429	2,502	3.6	67,005	2,659	3.8	68,715	3,589	5.0
Union	9,714	407	4.0	9,652	403	4.0	9,899	639	6.1
NEW ORLEANS-METairie- KENNER MSA	401,646	24,077	5.7	401,382	26,197	6.1	605,955	26,190	4.1
Jefferson	Household sample data were not available.						223,553	8,934	3.8
New Orleans City/Orleans							193,203	10,014	4.9
Plaquemines							11,392	472	4.0
St. Bernard							30,187	1,407	4.5
St. Charles							23,781	1,000	4.0
St. John Baptist							19,985	1,039	4.9
St. Tammany							103,854	3,325	3.1
SHREVEPORT-BOSSIER CITY MSA	170,180	6,289	3.6	168,796	6,505	3.7	170,781	8,880	4.9
Bossier	48,351	1,511	3.0	47,958	1,563	3.2	48,522	2,147	4.2
Caddo	111,189	4,336	3.8	110,285	4,493	3.9	111,582	6,085	5.2
De Soto	10,640	442	4.0	10,553	449	4.1	10,677	648	5.7
NON-MSA PARISHES									
Acadia (Crowley) ¹	23,694	779	3.2	23,541	824	3.4	23,526	1,161	4.7
Allen	7,740	342	4.2	7,814	368	4.5	7,941	586	6.9
Assumption (Pierre Part) ¹	9,046	460	4.8	8,959	488	5.2	9,190	757	7.6
Avoyelles	14,880	654	4.2	14,711	680	4.4	14,818	983	6.2
Beauregard (DeRidder) ¹	13,369	481	3.5	12,913	499	3.7	13,483	744	5.2
Bienville	5,809	252	4.2	5,718	263	4.4	5,856	435	6.9
Caldwell	4,137	154	3.6	3,925	171	4.2	4,021	286	6.6
Catahoula	4,040	200	4.7	3,807	215	5.3	3,906	271	6.5
Claiborne	6,482	256	3.8	6,364	261	3.9	6,507	381	5.5
Concordia (Natchez, MS-LA) ¹	6,655	432	6.1	6,558	478	6.8	6,678	634	8.7
East Carroll	2,613	242	8.5	2,487	256	9.3	2,527	339	11.8
Evangeline	11,301	443	3.8	11,219	481	4.1	11,413	651	5.4
Franklin	7,371	427	5.5	7,028	451	6.0	7,287	616	7.8
Iberia (New Iberia) ¹	30,260	1,080	3.4	29,468	1,184	3.9	30,550	1,688	5.2
Jackson (Ruston) ¹	6,061	218	3.5	6,010	245	3.9	6,124	337	5.2
Jefferson Davis (Jennings) ¹	13,265	379	2.8	13,452	404	2.9	13,355	591	4.2
La Salle	5,558	156	2.7	5,449	176	3.1	5,580	261	4.5
Lincoln (Ruston) ¹	17,379	671	3.7	17,234	721	4.0	17,562	968	5.2
Madison (Tallulah) ¹	4,179	259	5.8	4,197	275	6.1	4,235	402	8.7
Morehouse (Bastrop) ¹	10,761	628	5.5	10,580	669	5.9	10,887	968	8.2
Natchitoches (Natchitoches) ¹	17,221	680	3.8	16,452	684	4.0	16,974	927	5.2
Red River	3,085	167	5.1	2,958	171	5.5	3,059	266	8.0
Richland	7,972	381	4.6	7,805	404	4.9	7,936	602	7.1
Sabine	9,000	280	3.0	8,799	295	3.2	9,011	479	5.0
St. James	7,619	460	5.7	7,596	475	5.9	8,329	675	7.5
St. Landry (Opelousas, Eunice) ¹	34,429	1,404	3.9	34,033	1,452	4.1	34,488	1,906	5.2
St. Mary (Morgan City) ¹	19,908	984	4.7	19,743	1,080	5.2	20,175	1,631	7.5
Tangipahoa (Hammond) ¹	44,378	2,185	4.7	43,069	2,295	5.1	46,949	2,455	5.0
Tensas	2,090	186	8.2	1,927	187	8.8	1,995	196	8.9
Vermilion (Abbeville) ¹	22,022	777	3.4	21,421	836	3.8	22,105	1,141	4.9
Vernon (Fort Polk South) ¹	20,166	688	3.3	19,611	734	3.6	20,112	938	4.5
Washington (Bogalusa) ¹	13,853	758	5.2	13,640	776	5.4	15,154	967	6.0
Webster (Minden) ¹	18,410	693	3.6	17,952	712	3.8	18,306	1,081	5.6
West Carroll	4,395	296	6.3	4,093	316	7.2	4,172	490	10.5
Winn	5,742	237	4.0	5,781	251	4.2	5,790	333	5.4

¹In addition to the eight (8) Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) in Louisiana, there are seventeen (17) Micropolitan Statistical Areas (MCs): Jackson and Lincoln Parishes combine to constitute one MC area. Civilian Labor Force can be derived by adding employed and unemployed. For related information or data, please visit: www.bls.gov/lau/home.htm.

The 108,900 workers statewide in all manufacturing earned an average of \$800.26 per week in April 2006. Average weekly hours worked in April were 41.4 and average hourly earnings were \$19.33.



AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING AND SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES												
	Louisiana			New Orleans MSA			Baton Rouge MSA			Shreveport-Bossier City MSA		
	APR 2006	MAR 2006	APR 2005	APR 2006	MAR 2006	APR 2005	APR 2006	MAR 2006	APR 2005	APR 2006	MAR 2006	APR 2005
Average Weekly Earnings \$												
Natural Resources & Mining	960.87	983.97	961.09									
Mining	963.12	984.06	971.79									
Crude Petroleum & Natural Gas	1,534.62	1,381.28	1,275.61									
Support Act for Mining	881.88	938.32	963.97									
Manufacturing	800.26	773.08	721.65	954.06	943.52	936.22	1,039.43	878.88	800.90			
Durable Goods	749.06	759.50	718.44									
Transportation Equipment	835.77	851.04	778.37	733.98	673.36	672.80				1,218.00	1,211.10	1,055.23
Ship & Boat Building	745.45	740.28	739.64	666.04	666.04	672.80						
Nondurable Goods	860.18	787.84	724.17	954.06	943.52	936.22	1,628.80	1,153.96	1,193.50			
Food Manufacturing	453.43	445.51	434.42									
Paper Manufacturing	1,043.19	1,042.87	776.10									
Petroleum & Coal Products	897.70	897.70	1,032.30									
Chemical Manufacturing	1,410.95	1,249.33	1,204.30	1,526.07	1,554.12	1,399.11	2,284.85	1,794.72	1,643.01			
Basic Chemical Manufacturing	1,590.31	1,527.60	1,470.91				2,289.37	1,936.32	1,649.51			
Resin, Synthetic Rubber							1,114.86	1,114.86	1,234.53			
Average Weekly Hours												
Natural Resources & Mining	44.3	42.8	46.7									
Mining	44.2	42.6	46.1									
Crude Petroleum & Natural Gas	49.6	44.4	44.4									
Support Act for Mining	42.5	41.5	47.3									
Manufacturing	41.4	42.5	42.5	41.9	43.4	36.7	46.8	44.5	40.8			
Durable Goods	41.8	43.4	45.1									
Transportation Equipment	39.0	40.7	44.1	39.0	38.0	41.2				40.6	40.6	44.3
Ship & Boat Building	39.8	41.8	45.1	38.3	38.3	41.2						
Nondurable Goods	41.0	41.4	39.4	41.9	43.4	36.7	50.9	42.1	41.6			
Food Manufacturing	38.2	40.1	40.6									
Paper Manufacturing	44.6	45.8	39.0									
Petroleum & Coal Products	49.9	49.9	45.0									
Chemical Manufacturing	46.2	45.2	41.7	45.5	48.4	44.7	65.6	61.4	51.2			
Basic Chemical Manufacturing	47.8	47.5	44.6				64.2	59.8	51.1			
Resin, Synthetic Rubber							47.3	47.3	47.3			
Average Hourly Earnings \$												
Natural Resources & Mining	21.69	22.99	20.58									
Mining	21.79	23.10	21.08									
Crude Petroleum & Natural Gas	30.94	31.11	28.73									
Support Act for Mining	20.75	22.61	20.38									
Manufacturing	19.33	18.19	16.98	22.77	21.74	25.51	22.21	19.75	19.63			
Durable Goods	17.92	17.50	15.93									
Transportation Equipment	21.43	20.91	17.65	18.82	17.72	16.33				30.00	29.83	23.82
Ship & Boat Building	18.73	17.71	16.40	17.39	17.39	16.33						
Nondurable Goods	20.98	19.03	18.38	22.77	21.74	25.51	32.00	27.41	28.69			
Food Manufacturing	11.87	11.11	10.70									
Paper Manufacturing	23.39	22.77	19.90									
Petroleum & Coal Products	17.99	17.99	22.94									
Chemical Manufacturing	30.54	27.64	28.88	33.54	32.11	31.30	34.83	29.23	32.09			
Basic Chemical Manufacturing	33.27	32.16	32.98				35.66	32.38	32.28			
Resin, Synthetic Rubber							23.57	23.57	26.10			

LOUISIANA UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BY CLAIMANT'S PARISH OF RESIDENCE

WEEK ENDING - April 15, 2006

RLMA/PARISH	INITIAL CLAIMS	WEEKS CLAIMED	RLMA/PARISH	INITIAL CLAIMS	WEEKS CLAIMED	RLMA/PARISH	INITIAL CLAIMS	WEEKS CLAIMED
RLMA 1	275	3,544	RLMA 4	198	2,461	RLMA 7	274	3,337
JEFFERSON	98	1,391	ACADIA	14	191	BIENVILLE	7	80
ORLEANS	73	987	EVANGELINE	3	114	BOSSIER	39	524
PLAQUEMINES	4	88	IBERIA	18	277	CADDO	115	1,686
ST. BERNARD	2	22	LAFAYETTE	67	800	CLAIBORNE	6	61
ST. CHARLES	17	164	ST. LANDRY	47	421	DESOTO	7	145
ST. JAMES	14	146	ST. MARTIN	15	183	LINCOLN	14	226
ST. JOHN	23	303	ST. MARY	19	245	NATCHITOCHE	39	229
ST. TAMMANY	44	443	VERMILION	15	230	RED RIVER	11	61
						SABINE	6	70
RLMA 2	342	4,059	RLMA 5	84	1,022	WEBSTER	30	255
ASCENSION	38	438	ALLEN	11	70			
E. BATON ROUGE	158	2,006	BEAUREGARD	14	127	RLMA 8	153	2,259
EAST FELICIANA	6	63	CALCASIEU	53	733	CALDWELL	4	56
IBERVILLE	12	172	CAMERON	0	17	EAST CARROLL	7	123
LIVINGSTON	46	383	JEFF. DAVIS	6	75	FRANKLIN	12	218
POINTE COUPEE	6	82				JACKSON	3	88
ST. HELENA	6	46	RLMA 6	114	1,305	MADISON	4	88
TANGIPAHOA	46	589	AVOYELLES	22	162	MOREHOUSE	14	312
WASHINGTON	17	165	CATAHOULA	2	68	OUACHITA	83	928
W. BATON ROUGE	6	90	CONCORDIA	8	144	RICHLAND	9	187
WEST FELICIANA	1	25	GRANT	13	77	TENSAS	0	58
			LASALLE	2	38	UNION	13	116
RLMA 3	73	748	RAPIDES	45	557	WEST CARROLL	4	85
ASSUMPTION	13	103	VERNON	16	195			
LAFOURCHE	32	252	W INN	6	64			
TERREBONNE	28	393						

RLMA = REGIONAL LABOR MARKET AREA

THE ABOVE FIGURES INCLUDE REGULAR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (UI), UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS for FEDERAL EMPLOYEES (UCFE), and UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS for EX-SERVICE MEMBERS (UCX) DATA ONLY.

THESE FIGURES DO NOT INCLUDE INITIAL AND CONTINUED CLAIMS FOR DUA (DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE).

Labor Market Questions and Answers!

- ➔ **Where do the nonfarm numbers come from?**
 - Employers selected by random sampling are asked to provide the Louisiana Department of Labor with employment levels for the week of the 12th of the month. The survey results provide data at the state and MSA level for nonfarm jobs. The employment estimates are only as good as the responses received within a two week time period. Therefore, the higher the survey's rate of return, the greater the accuracy of the estimated employment.
- ➔ **Why aren't the construction job counts higher when I see all of the building activity in my area?**
 - Since this is an employer based survey, the jobs are counted in the parish that the employer's payroll is paid. For example, if the company's home office is in Baton Rouge but the job is in Alexandria, then the jobs will be counted in Baton Rouge. There is no separate employer survey for job location vs. business location.
- ➔ **What is the 2006 revision change to the civilian labor force series?**
 - The Bureau of Labor Statistics has eliminated regular revisions to the monthly preliminary estimates. As an example, the preliminary January 2006 data will not be revised with the release of February's civilian labor force estimates. All of the 2006 monthly labor force series will be preliminary until revised in March 2007 as part of the normal annual benchmarking process.
- ➔ **What is the 2006 revision change to the nonfarm employment series?**
 - The major change to the nonfarm employment series is the addition of published cells for the state and some metropolitan statistical areas. For a list of the additional published cells in the 2006 nonfarm employment series go to the Web site www.laworks.net, scroll over the tab at the top of the page for Labor Market Information, click on Publications and Reports, under Labor Market Information select Data Explanations and then select March 2006 – 2006 Changes to Nonfarm and Civilian Labor Force Statistics.

Have a question you would like to have answered? Email us at OOIS@ldol.state.la.us

GLOSSARY & TECHNICAL NOTES

Average Hourly Earnings/Average Weekly Earnings/ Average Weekly Hours (CES/BLS) - average total money earnings, in the survey week (i.e., the week that includes the twelfth of the month), of production workers plus nonsupervisory workers not in production, including overtime, paid vacation and sick leave.

Civilian Labor Force - that portion of the population, age sixteen or older, which is employed or unemployed and actively seeking employment during the reference week of the twelfth of the month.

Employed - the members of the labor force who worked for pay or profit, or had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute, or other reasons not reflecting a shortage of work, or who worked fifteen hours or more as unpaid workers in an enterprise operated by a member of the family.

Unemployed - the members of the labor force who did not work but were seeking work or were awaiting recall from layoffs or the beginning of a new job within thirty days.

Unemployment Rate - the number of unemployed persons expressed as percentage of the labor force.

Continued Claim - each week claimed subsequent to the filing of the initial claim for a week of unemployment compensation.

Current Employment Statistics (CES) - estimates of nonfarm employment and production workers hours and earnings by industry. They are produced as part of a nationwide program, in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), for the state and each metropolitan statistical area (MSA) from a sample of employing establishments.

Current Population Survey (CPS) - a monthly household survey of the U.S. population conducted for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) by the Bureau of Census, of 56,000 selected households. Respondents are interviewed to obtain information on the employment status of each household member age 16 and over, during the reference week of the twelfth.

Durable Goods - items with a normal life expectancy of three years or more. Automobiles, furniture, household appliances, and mobile homes are examples.

Initial Claims - a new claim, filed to open a claim for unemployment compensation.

Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) - a geographical area comprised of a parish generally containing a central city (or twin cities) of 50,000 inhabitants or more and contiguous parishes that are socially and economically integrated with the central city.

Micropolitan Statistical Area (MC) - a geographical area comprised of a parish containing a central city of at least 10,000 but less than 50,000 inhabitants and contiguous parishes that are socially and economically integrated with the central city.

NAICS (North American Industry Classification System) - an industry classification system that groups establishments into industries based on the activities in which they are primarily engaged.

Nonfarm Employment - employment by place of work that does not include the self employed, unpaid family workers, domestics, or agriculture workers. All estimates of nonfarm employment in this publication are in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics and include all full-time and part-time workers who were employed during the pay period including the twelfth of the month.

Nondurable Goods - items that generally last for only a short period of time (less than three years). Food, beverages, apparel, and gasoline are common examples.

Seasonally Adjusted - monthly data that is adjusted to minimize the changes in any time series which result from normal annual occurrences such as Christmas, summer vacations, and weather patterns.

Subsector - refers to the three-digit NAICS code, which will fall under the particular sector. Example: If Manufacturing (31-33) is the industry sector, then Food manufacturing (311), Paper manufacturing (322), Chemical manufacturing (325), Transportation equipment manufacturing (336), are some of the subsectors of manufacturing.

Supersector - refers to these five categories: Total Nonfarm, Total Private, Goods Producing, Service Providing, and Private Service Providing.

Summary Industry Sector - a combination of industry sectors. A summary sector may or may not be published. The summary industry sectors are Natural Resources & Mining; Natural Resources & Mining & Construction; Construction; Manufacturing; Trade, Transportation, & Utilities; Information; Financial Activities; Professional & Business Services; Educational & Health Services; Leisure & Hospitality; Other Services; and Government.

Industry Sector - 20 industry sectors based on two-digit NAICS code. They are Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting (11), Mining (21), Utilities (22), Construction (23), Manufacturing (31-33), Wholesale Trade (42), Retail Trade (44-45), Transportation and Warehousing (48-49), Information (51), Finance and Insurance (52), Real Estate and Rental and Leasing (53), Professional and Technical Services (54), Management of Companies and Enterprises (55), Administrative and Waste Services (56), Educational Services (61), Health Care and Social Assistance (62), Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation (71), Accommodation and Food Services (72), Other Services (81), and Public Administration (92).

Constraints of the monthly civilian labor force and nonfarm employment estimates:

The civilian labor force estimates are derived by a monthly survey of approximately 750 households throughout Louisiana following the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) methodology. The US Census Bureau conducts the survey by calling randomly selected households and providing BLS with survey results. Households are asked for the number of residents who are sixteen and over and whether they were working or actively looking for work during the week of the twelfth of the month. Responses to these questions become part of the formula to determine the number of people employed and the number of individuals unemployed for the state, MSAs, and each parish every month.

The nonfarm employment estimates are derived from responses received from the monthly BLS survey of 2,757 businesses across the state surveyed directly by this agency, and an additional 2,500 businesses that respond directly to BLS with their employment data. Responses capture employment activity during the twelfth of each month. This survey relies on responses from these businesses to produce industry employment levels for the state and all metropolitan statistical areas.

Both data sets are comparable with estimates for the U.S., all 50 states, and 270 metropolitan areas across the U.S.



Office of Occupational Information Services, Research and Statistics Division
P.O. Box 94094

Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9094

Phone (225) 342-3141; Fax (225) 342-9192; Toll Free (888) 302-7662; Email OOIS@ldol.state.la.us

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WEB LINKS

Average Hours & Earnings Louisiana <http://data.bls.gov/PDQ/outside.jsp?survey=sm>

Average Hours & Earnings United States <http://stats.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.t16.htm>

Civilian Labor Force (both LA & US) <http://www.voshost.com/altentry.asp?action=lmiguest>
(Scroll to Demographics & Statistics then select Labor Force)

Civilian Labor Force for US and other states <http://stats.bls.gov/cps/home.htm>

Consumer Price Index (US) <http://data.bls.gov/cgi-bin/surveymost?cu>

Hurricane Katrina <http://stats.bls.gov/katrina/home.htm>

NAICS Codes Look Up Table <http://www.census.gov/epcd/naics02/>

Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment (both LA & US) <http://www.voshost.com/altentry.asp?action=lmiguest>
(Scroll to Industry Information then select Monthly Nonfarm Employment)

Nonfarm Employment for the US and other states <http://stats.bls.gov/ces/home.htm>

Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (LA and parishes) http://www.laworks.net/qm_LMIWageData20053.asp
(US) <http://stats.bls.gov/cew/home.htm>

Unemployment Insurance Claims Data (LA) <http://ows.doleta.gov/unemploy/claims.asp>

Unemployment Rates for States <http://www.bls.gov/web/laumstrk.htm>



LOUISIANA WORKS
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Louisiana Department Of Labor
Office Of Occupational Information Services
Research & Statistics Division
Post Office Box 94094
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9094

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WORKFORCE AT A GLANCE

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LMI Staff:

Patty Lopez, Manager
Ramona Robichaux, Supervisor
Brenda Knighten, Layout and Design
Diane Landry, Jonathan Helis and Karen Clark

Contributors:

Janis Lowe, Florence Gibson, Eula Sanders, Carolyn Warner, Angela Banks, Karen Clark, Natalie Foster, Helen Hillard, Mark Jones, and Andrew Tull

Contact Us:

Phone (225) 342-3141; Fax (225) 342-9192; Toll Free (888) 302-7662;
Email OOIS@ldol.state.la.us

Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, Governor
State of Louisiana

John Warner Smith, Secretary
Louisiana Department of Labor

Desireé W. Honoré, Undersecretary of Labor

Raj Jindal, Information Technology Director

Michael “Dino” DeMarte,
Research and Statistics Director



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